

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13  
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PASS ODAP AND NIDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, IT

SUBJECT: NIDA/ODAP SUPPORT FOR POSSIBLE PILOT INFORMATION PROJECT

1. EMBASSYNARCOTICS COORDINATOR HAS HAD LONG DISCUSSION  
WITH PROF. VITTORINO ANDREOLI OF VERONA (PARTICIPANT IN  
MAY 16-18 ROME CONFERENCE) WHO IS WELL AND FAVORABLY  
KNOWN IN U.S. DRUG ABUSE CIRCLES.

2. PROF. ANDREOLI CONFIRMED DESIRE (AS EXPRESSED TO  
DR. SPILLANE FOLLOWING THE ROME CONFERENCE) TO WORK  
TOWARDS EXTENSION OF CODAP SYSTEM INTO OTHER AREAS OF  
NORTHERN ITALY. HE ALSO CONFIRMED HIS INTEREST IN  
RECEIVING FILMS AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE NIDA CLEAR-  
ING HOUSE FOR TRANSLATION AND USE IN LOCAL PROGRAMS.  
HOWEVER, PROF. ANDREOLI STRESSED HIS WISH TO RESTRICT HIS  
PARTICIPATION IN THESE ACTIVITIES TO AN EXTENT THAT WOULD  
PERMIT HIM TIME TO CARRY ON HIS OWN RESEARCH. AT THIS  
STAGE, THEREFORE, AN IMPORTANT PART OF HIS EFFORT IS TO  
FIND WAYS (AND PEOPLE) TO SHARE THE BURDEN. NONETHE-  
LESS IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBOFF, IT WAS CLEAR THAT  
PROF. ANDREOLI'S CONCERN ABOUT THE EXTENT AND CHARACTER  
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OF THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM IN HIS OWN AREA IS SUCH THAT  
HE IS WILLING TO SACRIFICE HIS OTHER INTERESTS--AT  
LEAST FOR NOW--IN ORDER TO GET IMPORTANT INFORMA-  
TIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS UNDER WAY.

3. ACCORDING TO PROF. ANDREOLI, IN HIS CITY OF VERONA  
THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 1,500 HEROIN ADDICTS (TOTAL CITY

POPULATION ABOUT 270,000) AND AROUND 10,000 USERS OF OTHER NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES. THE PROBLEM OF VERONA EXTENDS TO THE SCHOOL SYSTEM DOWN TO THE EARLY SECONDARY LEVEL. HE DESCRIBED THE PRESENT STAGE OF DRUG ABUSE IN VERONA (AND ITALY GENERALLY) AS /THE UNITED STATES IN THE EARLY 60'S". THE U.S. EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, HE FELT MIGHT HELP ITALY TO BEGIN COMBATting THE PROBLEM WITHOUT PASSING THROUGH THE PAINFUL INTERVENING STAGES. PROF. ANDREOLI EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ABOUT NARCOTICS TO POTENTIAL USERS THROUGH THE SCHOOL SYSTEM BUT RECOGNIZED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IPOSSIBLE TO TRY TO DO IT THROUGH THE NATIONAL BUREAU- CRACY IN THESE POLITICALLY PARLOUS TIMES.

4. EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT VERONA SEEMED TO OFFER BETTER THAN AVERAGE CONDITIONS FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES:

A. PROF. ANDREOLI APPEARS TO HAVE SOME FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE CASSA DI RISPARMIO IN VERONA AT LEAST TO FUND SOME TRANSLATION WORK: THE VENETO IS A STRONG CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC AREA, AND PRESUMABLY SOME SORT OF SUPPORT COULD BE EXPECTED FROM THE REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS: PROOF. ANDREOLI'S FATHER IS MAYOR OF VERONA. IF A SYSTEM TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON DRUG ABUSE TO POTENTIAL USERS WERE SUCCESSFUL IN VERONA IT COULD PROVIDE INCENTIVE FOR SIMILAR OPERATIONS IN OTHER REGIONS AND PERHAPS STIMULATE GREATER ACTIVITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FROM THE NATONA GOVERNMENT. PROF. ANDREOLI BELIEVES A DRUG ABUSE INFORMATION CENTER SIMILAR TO THOSE ESTABLISHED IN MANY AMERICAN CITIES WOULD SERVE AS THE NUCLEUS OF OTHER WIDER ACTIVITIES. SUCH A CENTER WOULD ADMINISTER AND COORDINATE THE ACQUISITION, TRANSLATION AND ADAPTATION, AND DISSEMINATIONOF INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS (FILMS, BOOKS, BROCHURES, ETC.) TO THE SCHOOL SYSTEM, CLUBS AND OTHER LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS. EVENTUALLY, THE CENTER COULD EVOLVE INTO OTHER DIRECT DRUG ABUSE ACTIVITIES SUCH AS OPERATING A "HOT LINE". BUT DURING ITS INFANCY ITS IS SEEN AS A MODEST EFFORT REQUIRING ONLY MODEST ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. ANDREOLI BELIEVES, HOWEVER, (AND WE TEND TO AGREE WITH HIM), THAT SOME SUPPORT FROM THE U.S.--THAT IS, FROM NIDA--WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO GIVE THE CENTER THE NECESSARY INITIAL MOMENTUM.

5. THEPLAN STILL NECESSARILY VAGUE, WOULD BE IN THE NATURE OF A PILOT PROJECT, WITH AN INITIAL LIFE OF ONE TO TWO YEARS. IT WULD REQUIRE OFFICE SPACE AND PROBABLY A SINGLE FULL-TIME STAFF MEMBER. THE COST WOULD BE RELATIVELY LOW. IF PART OF THE FUNDING CAME

FROM THE U.S. (NIDA) THE EMBASSY COULD MORE EASILY  
INSERT ITSELF INTO ITS ESTABLISHMENT, POSSIBLY BY  
URGING THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OR ITS LOCAL REPRESENTA-  
TIVE, THE PERFECT, TO PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE, COVERING THE  
COST OF TELEPHONE AND UTILITIES, AND FURNITURE. NIDA,  
IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING MATERIALS FOR TRANSLATION AND  
ADAPTATION, COULD PERHAPS GRANT A SUM OF MONEY TO PROF.  
ANDREOLI WITH WHICH HE WOULD PAY THE SALARY OF THE ONE  
FULL-TIME STAFF PERSON (AS HIS EMPLOYEE).

6. A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT WOULD, WE BELIEVE, SERVE AS A  
MODEL FOR OTHER REGIONS AS WELL AS ATTRACT OFFICIAL OR  
PRIVATE FUNDING FOR ITS CONTINUANCE. WE BELIEVE THERE  
WOULD BE OTHER SPIN-OFFS BENEFICIAL TO OUR OWN OBJECTIVES  
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IN DEVELOPING CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN AMERICANS AND  
ITALIANS WORKING IN THE DRUG ABUSE FIELD.

7. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ADVICE AND  
COMMENT BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH  
PROF. ANDREOLI. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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